

E  
51  
.I392  
vol.2  
no.5  
NMAIREF

# INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS

VOL. II



No. 5

A SERIES OF PUBLICA-  
TIONS RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

---

## AN IROQUOIS ANTLER FIGURINE

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER

---

NEW YORK  
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN  
HEYE FOUNDATION  
1920

## Publications of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation

---

### THE GEORGE G. HEYE EXPEDITION CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTH AMER- ICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

#### Vol. 1

The Antiquities of Manabi, Ecuador: A Preliminary Report. By Marshall H. Saville. 1907. \$25.00.

#### Vol. 2

The Antiquities of Manabi, Ecuador: Final Report. By Marshall H. Saville. 1910. \$25.00.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, HEYE FOUNDATION

#### Vol. 1

No. 1: Lucayan Artifacts from the Bahamas. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 1. 50c.

No. 2: Precolumbian Decoration of the Teeth in Ecuador, with some Account of the Occurrence of the Custom in other parts of North and South America. By Marshall H. Saville. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. 50c.

No. 3: Certain Kitchen-middens in Jamaica. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. (Reprinted, 1919.) 50c.

No. 4: Porto Rican Elbow-stones in the Heye Museum, with discussion of similar objects elsewhere. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 3. 50c.

# INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS

VOL. II



No. 5

A SERIES OF PUBLICA-  
TIONS RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

---

## AN IROQUOIS ANTLER FIGURINE

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER

---

NEW YORK  
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN  
HEYE FOUNDATION

1920

THIS series of INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS is devoted primarily to the publication of the results of studies by members of the staff of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and is uniform with HISPANIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS, published by the Hispanic Society of America, with which organization this Museum is in cordial coöperation.

AN IROQUOIS ANTLER  
FIGURINE

BY  
ALANSON SKINNER







IROQUOIS ANTLER FIGURINE  
(Height,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.)



## AN IROQUOIS ANTLER FIGURINE

By ALANSON SKINNER



HIS antler figurine, which still retains the high polish due to much handling, was found in an ash-bed on an ancient Wenro Indian village-site on Buffalo creek, just west of the town line in East Elma, New York.

The figure seems to have been intended for suspension, perhaps as a pendant from a necklace, as its neck is perforated from side to side in such manner that, however hung, it would always face outward. The hands—one raised, the other resting on the pelvis—are in a position characteristic of those of Iroquois bone images. Although the figure is represented as nude, the fact that the hair is gathered in a queue or braid behind reveals something of Wenro customs, valuable because this Iroquoian

tribe was so early exterminated that few of their artifacts have found their way into museum collections.

Among the present-day Seneca, in whom, history tells us, still courses some Wenro blood, it is said that their ancestors, if indeed the custom is not still maintained in secret, utilized similar bone images in the practice of witchcraft, and bone and antler figurines have been obtained in the ash-beds and graves of their ancient sites.

Such bone and antler images, however, are exceedingly rare, for of the thousands of specimens of these materials from the several known Iroquois tribes, fewer than a dozen figurines have been reported, and of these the one here referred to is the best.

*Consult:* BEAUCHAMP, William H., Horn and Bone Implements of the New York Indians, *Bulletin 50, New York State Museum*, p. 283, Albany, 1902. PARKER, Arthur C., Report of the New York State Archeologist, for 1913, p. 95, pl. opp. p. 96, Albany, 1913.

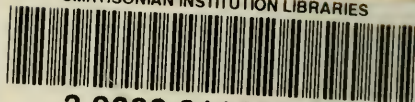




- No. 5: Note on the Archaeology of Chiriqui. By George Grant MacCurdy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anikropol.*, Vol. 15, 1913, No. 4. 50c.
- No. 6: Petroglyphs of Saint Vincent, British West Indies. By Thomas Huckerby. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 16, 1914. No. 2. 50c.
- No. 7: Prehistoric Objects from a Shell-heap at Erin Bay, Trinidad. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 16, 1914, No. 2. 50c.
- No. 8: Relations of Aboriginal Culture and Environment in the Lesser Antilles. By J. Walter Fewkes. Reprinted from *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 46, 1914, No. 9, 50c.
- No. 9: Pottery from Certain Caves in Eastern Santo Domingo, West Indies. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 17, 1915, No. 1. 50c.

## Vol. 2

- No. 1: Exploration of a Munsee Cemetery near Montague, New Jersey. By George G. Heye and George H. Pepper. 1915. \$1.00.
- No. 2: Engraved Celts from the Antilles. By J. Walter Fewkes. 1915. 50c.
- No. 3: Certain West Indian Superstitions Pertaining to Celts. By Theodoor de Booy. Reprinted from *Journ. Amer. Folk-Lore*, Vol. 28, No. 107, 1915. 50c.
- No. 4: The Nanticoke Community of Delaware. By Frank G. Speck. 1915. \$1.00.
- No. 5: Notes on the Archeology of Margarita Island, Venezuela. By Theodoor de Booy. 1916. 50c.
- No. 6: Monolithic Axes and their Distribution in Ancient America. By Marshall H. Saville. 1916. 50c.



3 9088 01143 3067

**Vol. 3**

Physical Anthropology of the Lenape or Delawares, and of the Eastern Indians in General. By Aleš Hrdlička. (*Bur. of Amer. Ethnol., Bull.* 62, 1916, with added title-page and cover.) \$1.00.

**Vol. 4**

No. 1: The Technique of Porcupine-Quill Decoration among the North American Indians. By William C. Orchard. 1916. \$1.00.

No. 2: Certain Archeological Investigations in Trinidad, British West Indies. By Theodor de Booy. Reprinted from *Amer. Anthropol.*, Vol. 19, 1917, No. 4. 50c.

No. 3: The Nacoochee Mound in Georgia. By George G. Heye, F. W. Hodge, and George H. Pepper. 1918. \$1.50.

**Vol. 5**

No. 1: A Letter of Pedro de Alvarado Relating to his Expedition to Ecuador [1534]. By Marshall H. Saville. 1917. 50c.

No. 2: The Diegueño Ceremony of the Death-Images. By E. H. Davis. 1919. 50c.

No. 3: Certain Mounds in Haywood County, North Carolina. By George G. Heye. Reprinted from *Holmes Anniversary Volume*, 1916. 1919. 50c.

No. 4: Exploration of Aboriginal Sites at Throgs Neck and Clasons Point, New York City. By Alanson Skinner. 1919. \$1.00.

**Address:**

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, HEYE  
FOUNDATION,  
BROADWAY AT 155TH ST.,  
NEW YORK CITY